

STOP PRESS continued

It's also worthwhile researching any peers who are interested in civil liberties and writing to them too. (2) Although the Bill has now passed through the House of Commons it is still worthwhile letting your own MP know what you think, as if the Lords reject any aspect of the Bill the whole thing will be bounced back to the Commons for further debate. Also, if you ask your MP now he will let you have a list of the Lords who will be examining the Bill when it is presented to the Upper House as soon as the relevant committee is announced, and you can then write direct to them with your comments.

It's also worthwhile writing to the government minister who has responsibility for broadcasting, David Mellor, and especially to Mark Fisher, the opposition front-bench spokesman for Arts and Media, as he is now aware that this amendment has been rushed through without any proper debate in the Commons; he will make sure that it is fully debated should the Bill be returned to the Lower House so needs all your letters to back up his opposition to this undemocratic legislation.

(3) If you are not already a member of the Caroline Movement join up, as you will then have access to their Info-line which will keep you up to date with the progress of the legislation and let you know what you can do next. For instant details 'phone 0884 258641 anytime.

ACT NOW - IT MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE!

STOP PRESS!

16 May 1990/26AC

NEWER AND BLUER MEANIES ARE IN THE VICINITY!

The DTI sneaked an amendment into the Broadcasting Bill last week just before it was passed by the House of Commons. One of over 400 amendments, it slipped through unnoticed! If the Bill is passed with this amendment it will give the authorities the power to go outside territorial waters and board any ship - regardless of where it is registered - that they suspect is, or is to become, a radio ship and arrest everyone on board, including the Captain, regardless of nationality!

It will be an offence to resist any of their actions! And, most incredible of all, the amendment gives them complete immunity from civil or criminal prosecution for anything they do whilst carrying out this action! Although this is clearly against International Law, once on the statute books it will be a long and expensive business to have it removed.

THE magazine for free radio enthusiasts.....

« FRS* GOES * DX »

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F.R.S. GOES DX INFO

'FRS GOES DX' is a monthly radio magazine which informs about radio in general and free radio in particular. 'FRS GOES DX' is a publication of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave station, broadcasting to Europe since August 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

An annual subscription costs DM 21.50/ f 21,50/ £ 6.25 (Europe). If you live outside Europe an annual membership costs US\$ 13.00. Payments are accepted in cash or via eurocheques. Other cheques are also accepted but then 15% has to be added!

Sample copies can be obtained for three inc's/ 4x 80pf or 8x 40pf German stamps/ 4x 75ct Dutch stamps/ £ 1.00 cash or st.

CORRESPONDENCE-ADDRESS

'FRS GOES DX',
P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten,
The Netherlands.

Use this address for:

- * renewing your membership
- * correspondence with regard to the magazine
- * complaints about sending

Letters, news, comments etc. are more than welcome and highly appreciated!

ADVERTISING

For full or half page advertisements contact us and we'll make a quotation. Small ads: non-commercial adverts, relating to the radio-hobby, are free for members.

Commercial adverts (small) cost DM 3.00/ f 1.00/ £ 3.00/ 3 inc's. We also accept German, Dutch or English stamps.

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End of August

DEADLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Aug. 20th

EDITORIAL

Only a few weeks after the May edition yet another 28 page !! A nice start of the 1990 Summer, isn't it? July will be a holiday month, also for the FRS Goes DX mag. That means that the next edition will be published in two months time. July will be skipped. There is a small chance that the next issue will be out in a months time and that August will be skipped. But this seems, at least at this very moment, unlikely.

As promised an interesting, and I'm sure also entertaining, Veronica Story. We realized it wasn't possible to be complete but that wasn't our intention. We have tried to commemorate a number of interesting, special and dramatic events in the life of the station and I think this condition has been fulfilled for 100%.

Gerd returned from the GDR but unfortunately he wasn't able to compile his Mailbox 41 contribution in time. Sorry! Last time we received a number of very interesting letters which will be handled in the next edition.

I'm very sorry for those who were waiting for the Sky Radio feature. The special Veronica feature took more pages than expected. So you'll have to wait one more issue.

Apart from the usual SW column a special feature on Q-AM. And the offshore freaks will be happy with the comprehensive offshore report including Communicator news and less encouraging news about the new UK Broadcasting Bill. It could work out very badly for Caroline 558. One positive remark: Caroline's musical format has improved a lot since the last few weeks. More than worth while !!!

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Special message for our regular loggers: please keep on forwarding your contributions in the coming weeks

«FRS Newscorner»

June was the month in which a full FRSH schedule would be aired. This time complete. All deejays, new ideas, a whole bunch of new jingles and not to forget: hours and hours of preparations. How sad it is to know that much of our efforts were (almost) for nothing. Luck was not on our side. An enormous contrast with April 22nd when a strong signal was radiated on a clear frequency. It started with a move to 7310 because there was a very strong carrier on 7306. On 7310 we suffered interference from Radio Tirana: between 13.00-13.30 CET as well as after 14.30 CET. On our location the signal was fair, sometimes even weak. Our first thought was long skip having influence on the strength of the signal on our (receiving) location. But when we got a first (little) package of mail, it soon appeared the conditions played a negative role on the Sun of the trm (17th) but not only the conditions. In one or another way the signal wasn't as strong as you may expect from almost 30W. In April we used 120W which is of course much more but despite this lower power and the poor conditions the difference was simply too big. And that's- to say the least- sad knowing so much effort was put into this trm.

For those who tuned their way to us: hope you did enjoy the pxs you heard. For instance in the UK the FRSH signal was so low that Mark Stafford made the remark we never were so weak as this month. We now pay our attention to the upcoming 10th birthday transmission which will possibly take place on the 4th Sun in August or even the 1st Sun of September. Why?? FRSH started with official pxs Aug. 31st 1980. We try to have the birthday shows on a date which is very close to that starting date. In one or another way we'll be asking you, the listener to participate.

A little recorded message should be nice and could be included in our pxs. Just give your opinion of what your thoughts are about 10 years of FRSH on SW. It would be very nice to receive some contributions from people already listening to us since 1980 or since the early 80's. When enough return postage is included you will of course get your cassette back.

For the rest: wait and see (listen). It will hopefully become an unforgettable broadcast. And it'll be carried out on at least two frequencies to make sure that our birthday programmes will be received in good quality by everyone!

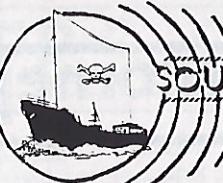
FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS

VERONICA 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

APRIL 18TH VERONICA CELEBRATED ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMMES. A LOT OF ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE OFFSHORE PERIOD WITH INTERVIEWS, PROGRAMME EXTRACTS AND 70'S AND 60'S MUSIC. TRANSMISSIONS CAME FROM A SHIP ANCHORED OFF THE COAST OF SCHEVENINGEN. FRS SALES PR. OFFERS YOU THE HOURS BETWEEN 08.00 CET - 14.30 CET. 6½ HOURS OF VERONICA HISTORY IN PERFECT FM-QUALITY. PER HOUR YOU PAY DM 6/ f 2.00/ £ 6. THE WHOLE BROADCAST FOR DM 30/ f 10/ £ 30. THIS OFFER IS VALID UNTIL THE END OF JULY

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SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE



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Last month we ended our day-to-day report in the 3rd week of May. So that's we we take up the story in the June 1990 offshore report. As far as Caroline is concerned, the situation hasn't changed. The main problem is the Spectrum Radio 558 trms, being heard in and aimed at the Greater London area, one of Caroline target areas. Also an interesting story about the Communicator keeping you in the picture about the current situation. As usual the first part of this report overlaps the last period being covered in the previous issue.

Thursday May 3rd: we learn from the Caroline pxs that the Ross is undergoing a repaint. The ship is getting back its original colours which are red and white.

Monday May 7th: a DTI spokesman told on the BBC Radio they- the DTI were disappointed on Caroline's attitude and behaviour in connection with Caroline's message about the upcoming Spectrum Radio trms on 558. The DTI thought that Caroline would leave 558 as soon as Spectrum would be on. Furthermore the person in question was talking about action which could be possible resulting in towing the Ross Revenge into territorial British waters. Was the man bragging or...?

Tuesday May 15th: The only lifeboat aboard the Ross Revenge isn't safe anymore. Talking about responsibility of an organisation towards its employees.

Saturday May 19th: Today the first 'Alive and Kicking Top Ten' on 558 starting at 22.15 CET. This Countdown of records is being compiled by means of the personal preferences of the jocks on the ship. During the first programme it is mentioned that they want to give the small, independent labels a chance. The px is presented by several deejays in a very relaxed way. In actual fact it's a Top 20 Countdown but only the numbers 1-10 are being aired. The days following the first A & K Top 10 several records from the lists are aired during the daytime pxs certainly giving Caroline a more progressive sound. Sometimes it looks like 1983...

Sunday May 20th: If our infos are correct, Spectrum commences the first test-broadcasts on 558. Result is that Caroline 558 cannot be received anymore in London town. The tx of Spectrum is located just less than amile from Ronan O'Rahilly's house...

Wednesday May 30th: The Ross is supplied by a tender. Tony Palmer joins the crew and as a results there now are 3 hour shifts. The schedule reads as follows:

07- 10 Rico
10- 13 Chris Frisco
13- 16 Tony Palmer
16- 19 Andy Bradgate
19- 22.15 Viewpoint
22.15- 01.00 Victor Hartman
01.00- 07.00 Colin Ward (?)

The offshore news section came about with the help of Hans Knot & Chr. Latiers

Victor Hartman tries to imitate the Caroline sound of the 70's in his shows. Not only because of his presentation but also because of his musical choice. During his evening shift he opens the show with the well-known Emerson, Lake & Palmer song which was also used back in the 70's. Remember? "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends..". In the shows several times

offshore news

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the words 'free radio' and 'The free International waters' are mentioned, something which is closely connected to the DTI putting pressure on Caroline because of the 558 frequency. The message which was aired on top of the hour in connection with Spectrum Radio is changed and isn't aired anymore every hour. One of the jocks talks about a 'most provocative act'.

Saturday June 2nd: The A&KTT commences at 22.45 instead of 22.15. This is because the Viewpoint programming is extended.

Tuesday June 5th: During Roy Master's show the signal suddenly disappears'. But 558 isn't silent. Clearly a test-broadcast of Spectrum can be heard on the continent. Conclusion is that the official Spectrum programming hasn't commenced yet. Caroline returned soon and thus Spectrum disappeared on 558 for the continental audience. At 23.00 CET Victor Hartman introduces a newcomer: Jerry Ride would be on at 01.00 CET. Once again a tender visiting the Ross

Wednesday June 6th: Part of the morning silence on 558. Obviously the tender is still lying along the Ross Revenge. The new programme schedule is:

07- 10 Rico
10- 12 Chris Frisco
12- 14 Johnny Blackburn
14- 16 Andy Bradgate
16- 19 Nick Jackson
19- 22.15 Viewpoint
22.15- 01 Victor Hartman
01- 04 Jerry Ride
04- 07 Tony Palmer

EUROPE'S MUSICAL HEARTBEAT FROM THE NORTHSEA ON 558: RADIO CAROLINE

In all fairness it must be admitted that a good and motivated crew is on the ship. For instance Johnny Blackburn is a very capable newcomer. Nick Jackson was already on the Ross between January and June 1989. Rico is already since April 2nd on the ship, much longer than several of his colleagues. During the shows the '1990 Summer competition' is heavily promoted. Listeners are invited to participate in this competition by thinking up a name for the mascot in the studio, a white rabbit..! The winner will be surprised with an album and a piece of Ross Reveneg furniture. And; the winner's favourite tracks will be played. The winner will be announced August 20th, exactly one year after the raid. A mess this evening during the Viewpoint programming. Programmes were suddenly started and stopped. Then silence, a needle of a record-player making a terrible noise, then a STAMMERING Victor Hartman and then....Viewpoint starts again in the middle of a beautiful speech by one of the 558 vicars.

Thursday June 7th: Loving Awareness back on Caroline! Several LA jingles are used in the shows plus a few 'normal' jingles from the late 70's. Also the return of the good-old Caroline bell on top of the hour. It seems that a number of very loyal Caroline supporters from the Kent area offered Caroline the complete jingle packages on top quality on cartridges. Did the station accept the offer ?? More and more listeners have discovered the change of the musical format judging a few letters handled by Rico. In those letters people were asking why album tracks were played during daytime instead of only during evening and nighttime. Rico said this format was chosen by the deejays. Too long album tracks are avoided during daytime.

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THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE MV COMMUNICATOR

Last January in 'FRS Goes DX' issue no. 91, a detailed story was published with regard to the MV Communicator and the problems between the owner of the ship- White Lanca Marine Enterprises Inc. and Fred Bolland who was captain of the ship during a number of months when the ship was already berthed in Portugal. The main point was that Mr. Bolland had lined his very own pockets with large amounts of money meant to finance the upcoming radioproject aboard the ship. Eversince the Communicator left the Western European waters, sailing to Portugal to be re-fitted, no concrete infos or photos did reach our newsdesk. However, in the latest OEM publication, issue no. 81, photos are published showing the MV Communicator on dry deck but also the installment of two brandnew aerial masts. No doubt these are masts looking much more solidly than the old ones which were on the ship at the time when Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits 576 were broadcasting from the high seas. The red-white painted masts are really looking very professional and taking this into account, one would assume people behind the project were or are seriously working to get a new station off the ground. Otherwise such expensive masts wouldn't be installed. One important remark: the aforementioned photos were taken during the autumn of 1989, quite a while ago. It would be of more interest to know how the ship is currently looking. One of our contributors was in Portugal very recently and we are awaiting his comments and hopefully a number of up-dated photos as well. Watch out for 'FRS Goes DX' issue number 97 coming out in 4 weeks time! Fact is the situation with the former radiovessel remains rather confused. A raid by the Portuguese authorities, pressure from the Dutch OCD and last but not least the problems within the organisation itself. Key-word is money. People cannot resist the luxury of having large amounts of money, not meant to line their own pockets, at their disposal. The result is that the project doesn't progress at all. Hans Knot, our main offshore correspondent informed us about the things which happened with the Communicator and the planned radioproject. We take up the story and start in April 1989 when the ship left her anchorage at Mistley in the UK. It was planned to sail the ship to the Ferry Bank but this attempt failed because of bad weather. So the ship was taken to the so-called Sandettie Bank where a new anchor was installed with a new chain as well. By the way: when the ship left the UK almost nothing was on the ship: no generators, no fuel etc. There even was no possibility to steer the ship. The steering was partly removed, there was no radar system. After a while the ship became 60 tons of fuel and the generators were repaired. Left from the days of Laser Hot Hits- the station which was on the Communicator between Dec. 1986 and April 1987- were the transmitters and the masts, being in a very bad condition. There was no studio-equipment aboard the ship. Between April and June 1989 the ship stayed on the high seas and only very little work was carried out. At the end of June she sailed to Portugal, a six day journey. Although having serious difficulties with the engines, Lisbon, capital of Portugal, was reached in a safe way. Fred Bolland was the responsible persons as far as the daily routine was concerned. The problem was that the money, needed to re-equip the ship, only 'arrived' very slowly and in small quantaties. The financial sources came from a religious organisation, already mentioned in previous issues of 'FRS Goes DX' !!

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Via the organisation and a few go-betweens, the money went to Mr. Bolland, being the main man aboard the ship.

The Dutch authorities knew the ship was in Portugal but moreover: they discovered that some people involved in the project had a very dubious political past being extremely right wing. These persons, the aforementioned go-betweens, were willing to use the transmitters for propaganda purposes. The Dutch authorities seem to be able to use article 140 of the law meaning they may act against persons involved in 'conspiracy against Holland'. These persons who got money from the organisation to hand it over to Fred Bolland used part of the money for their own business. They were not able to return the money and accused Bolland of putting it in his pocket. So there's one story of Mr. Bolland pinching money and two go-betweens doing the same...!! Rather confusing. Fact is Fred Bolland was fired by the organisation behind the project. This happened early December 1989. Eversince the situation hasn't changed, no real developments have been taking place. It seems f 1,100,000 has been spent so far. another f 300,000 is missing. One problem is that the organisation, having their headquarters somewhere in the Southern part of W-Germany, aren't aware of the bad things which happened. In the mean time the two go-betweens go free because they are in the position to tell the organisation every story they like thus taking advantage of the situation. It looks like, judging the photos in OEM, that the ship is in a very good shape. There's now a lot of ballast (concrete) making the ship much more stable than it used to be. One mast, the back one, has been erected, a second similar mast is already waiting for several months to be erected as well. The Portuguese authorities confiscated studio and transmitting equipment last year. As Portugal had signed an anti-pirate law already before the Communicator arrived in Lisbon, they were in the legal position to undertake that action. The two CSI 25 kW txs are still on the ship but not in a 100% working condition. As we already reported some months ago there are more transmitters apart from the original CSI ones used by Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits. Two more 10 kW AM units & the 30 kW FM unit which was on the Radio Paradise ship Magda Maria (never used!). The FM unit is able to transmit in stereo. Apart from the broadcasting gear there are a few solid state generaors plus FM processing equipment. All this equipment hasn't been installed but still is in large containers. The plan is (or was??) to start up a pop-music station after the example of Laser. The religious people (the International Church) were (are?) intending to start up a SW service which is the most effective way to reach a large International audience. At the moment the situation is as follows: no work is being carried out. There are debts to people who worked on the ship but also debts for harbour duties. It's really unbelievable so much money has been invested with no less than 5 txs ready to be used, high-powered generaors, two real professional and solid antenna masts & a ship which has been completely refitted being in a very good shape with more than 50 tons of ballast.... It would be a shame if the Communicator would end up like the MV Nannell. The ship could be operational within a period of some 8 weeks but that can only happen when the financial troubles are being solved. Part of these difficulties is the problem between Mr. Bolland and the two go-betweens. Logically thinking the organisation having already brought in so much money, cannot give up, otherwise they will loose all the money already being invested....

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Saturday June 9th: During the A&KTT (a very pleasant atmosphere) a female presenter is being noticed. Her name is Sara(h). Obviously she presents during nighttime. She hasn't been heard during daytime so far.

THE FUTURE OF OFFSHORE RADIO

According to what we've been hearing recently and from what we know, things are not very promising as far as the future of offshore radio concerns. This is due to the new UK Broadcast Bill, also covering the offshore radio chapter. The upcoming unification of several European countries is another danger which can't be ignored ! We've been told that the latter could result in the Northsea becoming a kind of inland sea... It is too early to discuss this at this very moment. More concrete is the new UK Broadcast Bill currently passing through Parliament. The Bill contains a number of proposals to amend the well-known 1967 Marine Offences Broadcasting Act. These proposals would, if they are allowed to become law, make it an offence to....

1. Broadcast from UK Tidal waters, external waters and the continental shelf from a ship or structure to which the MOA applies.
2. Unlawful to broadcast from ship in above, capable of being received in or causing interference to wireless telegraphy in the UK. This does not apply if authorised under the law of any country outside the UK.
3. Prohibits any person from within the UK or external waters participating in management, financing, operation or day to day running of broadcasting station to which the MOA applies
4. Powers of enforcement given to Police Officers, Her Majesty's armed forces, Customs officers, British Sea Fisheries officers and any person designated by the Secretary of State.
5. If the Enforcement officers suspect that an offence has been or is being committed, they have powers to board, search and arrest suspects, to seize equipment and to detain the ship.
6. The Enforcement officer and his assistants can arrest anyone who assaults them, can compel anyone to assist them and use reasonable force in exercising their powers. This will not be liable under any civil or criminal law, for anything done in exercising their powers carrying out their duties.

These proposals have been simplified to save space (the originals are 6 pages long !). If they are allowed to become law, then Radio Caroline and any other offshore radio station would almost certainly be finished. If the authorities do not intend to use these laws, they would not have proposed them.

HOW CAN WE HELP ?

There is little time left to make our feelings (= the feelings of those concerned about offshore radio!) known, the Broadcasting Bill has already passed through its reading in the House of Commons and is now booked for a reading in the House of Lords in June. The original Broadcasting Bill contained over 1000 pages, added to this there are around 400 amendments tabled including those the MOA.

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These amendments are thought to total several thousands of pages and it is likely that many members of Parliament are unaware of the implications of a number of them. It is important that we all help to publicise the draconian new proposals and have them changed or removed before they are allowed to become law. We must immediately write to the MP's at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. We should also write to members of the House of Lords, Radio and Television stations, newspapers and anyone else who may have some influence in the situation. The questions that should be asked for are how UK law can be applied outside of the UK, ie in International waters? This would seem to be against International law, as proposed, British officials could act against any ship anywhere in the world.

How it is decided which ship or structure may be making a broadcast? The proposals could be construed against any ship making progress near the UK or elsewhere, even for example a cross channel ferry. Now the Enforcement officer can be exempt from prosecution and what constitutes 'reasonable' force? which would appear to contravene human rights issues.

The proposed amendments to the MOA clearly have implications not only for offshore broadcasting, but for human rights, Civil liberties and for International law. In a court of law it is doubtful if the proposals would stand up to scrutiny. However, by that time it would be too late, to challenge a law the act must have been carried out. That act would be the forcible removal of Radio Caroline from International waters and the end of free offshore radio. We must write now to try and stop the proposals becoming law.

The above information about the new UK Broadcasting Bill reached us via Offshore Echo's, P.O.Box 1514, London W7 2LL. As this is a very important matter, which also concerns 'FRS Goes DX' and its readers because we cover the entire offshore scene, we decided to publish the OEM info in full. We also received an info-sheet from one of our clubmembers, also relating to this subject. No source is mentioned, obviously it is from an UK publication/organisation, perhaps the Caroline Movement ??? For the latest info you could phone to:

CM INFOLINE 0426 961640
To leave a message 0884 258641

ACE NEWS 0836 404575
To leave a message 081509 0729

The copies of the info-sheet we also received on page 28 !

Sat July 7th Offshore Echo's will organise 'Euroradio-The Offshore Assembly'. The place where it's all happening is Club Discotheque 555 in Calais, only 80 km from the Ross Revenge. For more info write to Box 1514, London W7 2LL

RADIO CAROLINE 558

MUSIC THROUGH THE 90's

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GODDESS OF DEMOCRACY

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Last month we ended up with the sad news the project was cancelled. In the course of the past few weeks some more news reached us about this project. May 13th RTL-Veronica news announced that the radioship GoD had arrived in Taiwan. A spokesman of the Taiwan government told that they had decided to withdraw assistance to the organisation; also no illegal support would be given. A French reporter aboard the ship said they were not afraid of for any Chinese attack. CNN News told the GoD had arrived in Taiwan for getting supplies and equipment. After this supply the ship wouldn't be permitted to return to any harbour in Taiwan. CNN told that tests had already been carried out. Nonsense! May 16th Dutch television made mention of test-broadcasts starting tomorrow. The Chinese authorities had already sent a ship to the GoD according to the Dutch TV. However, this news was wrong since the ship still was in harbour. May 17th a 10 min. newsitem is dedicated on the GoD project on BBC TV (23.30 CET Newsshow). A French spokesman told that there were indeed problems because authorities of Taiwan REFUSED TO DELIVER TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT TO THE SHIP. So it would be very doubtful tests could be commenced very soon. Shots from the journey of the GoD were shown, very interesting. Elisabeth Wright of the Chinese department of the BBC World Service was interviewed and according to her it was unlikely the Chinese government would interfere. She said it were only threats; perhaps China would provoke by sending ships to the GoD. During the little documentary also 2 Chinese dissidents were shown. Mrs. Wright believed many Chinese people would be tuning their way to the pxs of the GoD once the station would be on. May 22nd the Wall Street Journal announced the GoD project would be postponed due to the fact no assistance from Taiwan was received. Also Japan and the USA were advising the organisation not to continue. May 24th RTL-V showed shots of the radiovessel. Several reasons were mentioned why the project was cancelled: lack of money, problems in getting the broadcasting gear aboard the ship, problems with the supply of the ship plus the negative advices from countries such as Japan and the USA. Not too forget the unexpected attitude of the government in Taiwan. It all was too much for the organisation. May 26th it was officially announced by the organisation the project had been cancelled.....

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- * On the subcarrier of the USA documentary channel 'Discovery' two radiostations can be heard. Daily between 21- 23 the religious station Network 11. The remaining 22 hours are covered by Super-gold (Intelsat VA F11).
- * The Dutch World Service can now be heard on US cable networks a few times every week. It concern the English broadcasts beamed at the US. The public broadcasting network C-SPAN re-broadcasts the trms. C-SPAN re-broadcasts several SW stations from around the world via satellite and cable.
- * Viewpoint has a new address: Viewpoint, Box 710186, San José, California 95171-0186 in the USA.

P.O. Box 85 455 • NL-2508 CD Den Haag • HOLLAND

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Some weeks ago we received Info sheet no. 1, published in April, from QUALITY AM. As the SW scene nowadays isn't as exciting as it used to be, it was a welcome surprise to learn about a brandnew SW free radio station called Quality AM last Jan. Judging the standard of the station's programmes, it certainly is an enrichment for the European SW free radio scene. Although the broadcasting schedule of Q-AM- one of the station's slogans- is irregular and the station OP's claim not to know whether the station will continue for a longer period, it can be gathered from their first info sheet that the station is not a 'flash in the pan'. The blue printed sheet looks very professional and it would be weird to produce such good looking info material knowing your station will only be broadcasting for a brief period..... Also the Quality AM qsl-card is looking good making clear the people behind the station are willing to do their job in a good and professional way.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF QUALITY AM

The station was set up by two people who have been around in the SW world and free radio scene for many years. They were active for a number of SW stations in the past. No doubt people who have been active in SW free radio land for a longer period, either as a listener or an OP, will know which people and names are hidden behind Steve King- current station OP- and Paul Alexander. Quality Radio commenced trms Jan. 1st 1990 with a two hour broadcast between 12.00-1400 UTC on 9985 kHz. A rather unusual frequency choice for an European SW free radio station. But so far is has been a perfect choice !! Up till now 11 broadcasts were carried out, the last two taking place on May 20th and June 10th.

The official name is Quality Radio but frequently used slogans include 'Q-AM', 'Quality AM' and 'International music radio on SW'.

QUALITY
RADIO 9985

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No. 015

We are pleased to verify your report on reception of
QUALITY RADIO monitored by you in

Herten

Date: February 11th 1990
Time: 0932-1111 UTC
Frequency: 9985 kHz
Power: 300 W
Aerial: Dipole

Thank you for listening.
Best wishes.

Steve King

Frs Feature

f.r.s. goes dx

A number of times the Sunday morning broadcast was repeated during the afternoon and early/late evening on 15055 in the 19mb and 21850 in the 13mb. Pxs are always commenced at the top of the hour and as already mentioned the pxs last two hours.

For the technical minded among you: the transmitter being used is of a professional standard- perhaps a military type- having a maximum output of 600W. Most of the times pxs are aired with 400W of power. Dipole antennas are connected to the tx unit. So far a lot of guesses have been made as to where the transmitting site of the station is. Although Q-AM uses a Dutch mailing address, the station's info-sheet reveals the site cannot be found in Holland. The real location isn't mentioned for security reasons, quite logical! The coverage area covers the northern half of Europe but also parts of the southern half. Using such high frequencies certainly increases the coverage; a disadvantage is the dead zones which can easily occur, especially during the summer period. So far the station's reception quality was rather different varying between brilliant and fair to poor. This could have been a result of conditions and using different power. Apart from the reception reports reaching the station from all remote corners in Europe, a few quite exceptional reports were received from Egypt, Canada & the USA. Reception reports are seriously handled and must be written in a detailed way, something which often lacks looking at the reports FRS is receiving. For a qsl and the station's info-sheet, you should enclose 2 irc's or 2 US\$. Mint stamps are NOT accepted; the same applies for picture postcards from the GDR. Please allow 2-3 months for a reply.

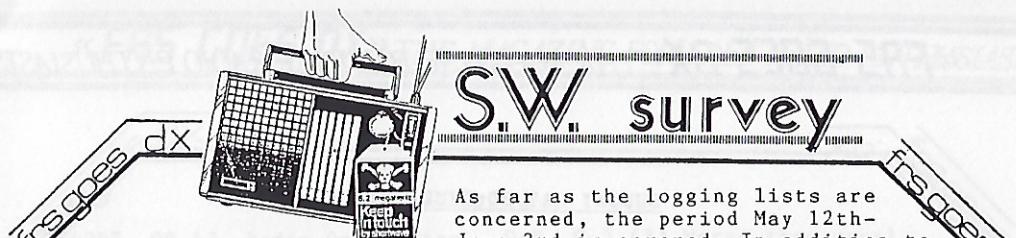
The address: P.O.Box 85 455- 2508 CD De Hague- The Netherlands.

FREE RADIO IN THE GDR

In the mean time- as some of you will know- the GDR has its own free radio stations. The first (?) station was Radio Rebel Int. This hobby pirate was already founded before the revolution and has been active since the end of 1989. Frequency: 7440, ofcourse via RWI in France. Another station is Radio Rostock, probably broadcasting via a Dutch relay. Up till now it looks like Radio Powerplay is the only GDR pirate, actively broadcasting from GDR soil. Radio Powerplay was observed a few times on 7490 with deejay Johnny Fantasy. The station has a mailing address in Rotterdam: P.O.Box 65027. Also legal commercial broadcasting organisations have been showing interest to start up trms in the GDR. Europe No. 1, after RTL the biggest commercial broadcaster on the French market, is going to co-operate with the Eastgerman public broadcasting organisation, ofcourse owned by the state. This year a new commercial station will be launched under the name Radio Metropol 1. Location will be (East-)Berlin. Europe No. 1 also signed a contract with the Soviet Union for future co-operation. The same was done with Tzechoslovakia.

In the programme 'Kurzwellen-Panorama' of Radio Austria Int. new computer software for radio-enthusiasts is presented. Every programme is accompanied by an info-sheet which you can obtain free of charge (ROI, KW-Panorama, A-1136 Vienna). Up till now the following sheets are available: 1) Morse traine 2) Satellite orbit computing 3,4 & 8) Propagation predictions 5,6) Contest administration 7) Distance measuring

f.r.s. feature



S.W. survey

As far as the logging lists are concerned, the period May 12th- June 3rd is covered. In addition to this the most important newsitems. The number of stations still is low, unfortunately! Conditions were varying between fair and good. The warmer weather can cause special propagation conditions implying the skip is dramatically increasing. This could mean you'll or can miss your favourite radiostation on SW. Apart from the usual SW 'stuff' there's a special feature elsewhere in this issue about Quality AM. It's not a bad thing to mention the contributors for the SW logging lists:

- 1) Norbert Scheel, W-Berlin, FRG using a Satellite 2100 from Grundig connected to a few metres long wire aerial.
- 2) Stuart Dobson, Stone (The Midlands). UK using.....(??).
- 3) Chris Latiers, Den Bosch, The Netherlands using a Panasonic RF-3100 connected to a few metres long wire.
- 4) Patrick Poulin, Luc sur Mer, France using a Grundig Satellite 650 + 15m long wire.
- 5) FRS monitoring service using an ICF 2001D (Sony) and some 8m long wire.

SATURDAY MAY 12th

Freq.	Time	Name of the station	Overall Merit		Remarks
			U.K.	Cont.	
6200	11.54	Freesound Radio	0=5	0=2/3	
6230	13.16	Jolly Roger Radio	0=5	-----	
6320	22.58	Radio Stella	---	0=3	Music, ID's. in E

SUNDAY MAY 13th

6225	09.00	Süd-West Radio	---	0=3 (1)	'Radio-Shop'
6225	09.03	Süd-West Radio	---	0=3 (3)	Much hard rock mx
6225	09.40	Unid (=SWR, P.V.)	---	0=1 (4)	Very weak!
6232	09.07	Britain Radio Int.	0=4	0=3 (3)	
6232	09.50	Britain Radio Int.	0=2	0=2 (4)	
6300	10.01	Radio Orion	0=5	0=3 (4)	
7440	10.18	Radio Waves Int.	0=3	0=3 (4)	
7440	08.01	DX-34	---	0=3	Via txs of RWI
7483	09.52	Radio Marabu	---	0=2 (4)	

SATURDAY MAY 19th

6300	11.16	Sounds Alternative	0=3	-----	
6225	23.02	Jolly Roger Radio	---	0=2/3	Music & ID's in E

SUNDAY MAY 20th

6205	07.45	Radio Freedom Int.	0=2	0=2 (3)	Fairly weak.
6205	08.50	Radio Freedom Int.	---	0=2 (4)	
6229	08.19	Unid	---	0=1 (4)	Very weak, Rivers?
6230	08.15	Riverside Radio	0=2	---	
6230	10.19	Radio Waves Int.	0=1	---	
6230	12.21	Jolly Roger Radio	0=2	---	
6240	08.21	Radio East Coast H.	0=4	0=3/4 (1)	
6240	07.48	Radio East Coast H.	---	0=5 (4)	
6273	07.37	NISWRS	---	0=2 (4)	

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SUNDAY MAY 20th (Cont.)

6290	09.25	Radio East Coast Comm.	0=4	0=3 (3)
6290	11.44	Radio East Coast Comm.	---	0=3 (4)
6299	10.07	Radio Orion	---	0=3 (4)
6299	10.04	Radio Orion	0=5	---
7440	09.40	Radio Spectrum	---	0=1 (4) Via RWI, very weak.
7440	10.22	Radio Waves Int.	---	0=1 (4) Never so weak !
9985	09.08	Quality AM	---	0=3/4 (1)
9985	09.18	Quality AM	---	0=1/2 (4) Weak.
9985	09.42	Quality AM	---	0=3 (3)
15050	10.01	Pirate Freaks BS	---	0=5 (4)

THURSDAY MAY 24th (Ascension Day)

6240	08.25	Pirate Freaks BS	---	0=3 (1)
6240	10.15	Radio Northlight Int.	---	0=3 (1)
6240	10.34	Pirate Freaks BS	---	0=3 (3)

SATURDAY MAY 26th

6240	23.42	Voice of the Neth.	---	0=3 (1)
6240	11.38	Unid	---	0=3 (3) German station. (?)
6240	23.59	Voice of the Neth.	---	0=3 (3)
6290	11.50	Delta Radio	0=3	--- See news.

SUNDAY MAY 27th

6232	09.32	Britain Radio Int.	0=4	0=3 (3)
6232	09.03	Britain Radio Int.	---	0=2 (4) Much local interf.
6273	07.14	NISWRS	0=3	0=2 (4)
6299	10.23	Radio Orion	0=5	0=3 (4)
6310	00.19	UNID (UK-station)	---	0=2 (1) Mx/ID in E; fading.
6320	00.17	Radio Stella Int.	---	0=3 (1)
7489	09.35	Brigitte Radio	---	0=2 (4) Non-stop music
7535	11.00	Voice of Europe	---	0=5 (4) Weak before 09.00
9860	07.24	Italian Radio Relay S.	---	0=4 (4) See news,
6820	10.20	Unid	---	0=3 (4) Utility interference
6290	-----	Weekend Music Radio	0=3/4	--- Test

MONDAY MAY 28th (Bank Holiday in the UK)

6210	-----	Radio Tina	0=3	---
6257	-----	Delta Radio (UK)	0=2/3	--- Utility interfer.
6299	-----	Radio Orion	0=4	---
6299	-----	UK Radio	0=4	--- Relay via Orion.

SATURDAY JUNE 2nd

6230	09.47	Jolly Roger Radio	0=4	---
6275	09.38	Won Free Radio L.	0=3	---
6275	15.15	Radio Mi Amigo	0=3	---
6285	23.45	Radio Titanic Int.	---	0=4 (1)

SW ADDRESSES:

1 = P.O.Box 41 - NL-7700 AA Dedemsvaart - The Netherlands
 2 = P.O.Box 220342 - D-5600 Wuppertal 22 - West-Germany
 3 = P.O.Box 5 - Hunstanton - Norfolk - PE36 5AU - England
 4 = P.O.Box 19074 - 3501 DB Utrecht - The Netherlands

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SUNDAY JUNE 3rd

6205	09.13	Radio Orang Utan	0=5	0=3 (3) Worse than usual.
6205	09.28	Radio Orang Utan	---	0=3 (1) Oldies; ID's in E/S/G
6205	07.10	Radio Orang Utan	---	0=2 (4)
6230	09.48	Jolly Roger Radio	0=3	---
6230	11.46	Radio Waves Int.	0=3	--- Relay via JRR ?
6240	09.23	Radio 48	0=5	0=3 (3)
6240	08.59	Radio 48	---	0=2 (4)
6280	08.56	Radio Freedom Int.	0=5	0=4 (3) Announced 6205; see news
6280	08.59	Radio Freedom	---	0=1 (4) Very weak.
6290	09.25	Radio ECC	0=5	0=3 (3)
6290	12.16	Radio ECC	---	0=2 (4)
6300	10.24	Radio Orion	0=5	0=3 (3) Non-stop music
6300	10.29	Radio Orion	---	0=2 (4)
6315	12.10	Radio Gloria	0=3	--- QSO-ing
6316	10.33	101 Radio (?)	---	0=3 (4)
6316	10.28	Light Wire Radio	0=5	0=3 (3) Overmodulated; bad clar.
6320	12.05	Weekend Music Radio	0=5	---
6820	10.38	Ozone Radio	0=4	---
6206	10.03	Radio Northlight	---	0=3 (1) QSO-ing with Orang Utan
6206	10.14	Radio Powerplay	---	0=3 (1) OSO-ing with Northlight

Our apologies that some of the loggings aren't in frequency order !!
 And now the news....

* ATLANTA RADIO planned an extra Bank Holiday trm Monday May 28th. However, due to the very bad band-conditions on Sun May 27th, it was decided to cancel the broadcast on Sun evening. Intended was a 2 hour trm. When the next Atlanta broadcast is planned, isn't known yet. Address: (3).

* BRITAIN RADIO INT. was to be heard twice in May. Both times fair signals were observed on the continent. An evening test was noted Sun May 6th (20.30 CET) in preparation for the extra Bank Holiday trm the next day, Mon May 7th. June 10th it was a very special day in BRI's history: the celebration of the station's 10th Birthday! Special pxs were carried out lasting much longer than usual. Much stuff from the 80's was being aired as well as a station's history. The station had put a lot of effort in preparing the birthday shows which indeed were wonderful. Reception on the continent was poor/fair until 11.30 CET because of irritating background noises caused by the poor band conditions. After 11.30 things improved a lot and signal-strength was good! (this was also the case before 11.30 but then the strong signal was overshadowed by the bandnoise). Address: (4) & 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury in the UK.

* LIGHT WIRE RADIO is a brandnew UK station which popped up (for the 1st time ?) Sun June 3rd on 6316 kHz. Signal-strength was fair/good on the continent but the clarity of the audio wasn't perfect, in fact very little could be understood. It was for instance hardly possible to 'decipher' the station's name. In the UK a strong signal was monitored. Address is unknown, next time we'll be knowing it.

* DELTA RADIO (UK) were heard Sat May 26th on 6290 kHz with a px called the 'Rock 'n' Roll Extravaganza' presented by Norman Nelson of ECC fame. Two days later Delta was again on with an extra Bank Holiday trm on 6257 kHz. Utility interference

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s.w. news

spoilt part of the pxs, unfortunately !! The fixed programme-schedule is planned every last Sat of each month commencing at 11.00 BST=12.00 CET. Up till now Delta has been very irregular. Address is (3).

* THE VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS isn't very active these days. This is a direct result of the raid of colleague station Radio London, back in March. Most of the times the VOTN can be heard is at nighttime because then hardly no risk is taken by the station OP. Sat May 26th VOTN was clearly heard with an immense signal (almost 0.5 kW)! Frequency was 6240 kHz and a telephone number was given out so that listeners could call. Address: P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen.

* RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND isn't, just like VOTN, very often active these days. Sun May 20th was an exception and a very powerful signal was noted on 6242. So now and then the station suffered interference from the splatter of Vatican Radio on 6248 kHz. However, on the lower side band the station could be easily picked up with bandwidth on 'wide' till 6236 kHz. Next trm will take place in some 8 weeks. Address: P.O.Box 536, 7900 AM Hoogeveen.

* WONDERF. FREE RADIO LONDON is planning to carry out nightly tests June 24th/25th and June 30th/July 1st. Tests can be expected in the period between 00.00-06.00 UTC. Frequency could be 15730 kHz. The next trm will be (as far as scheduled trms are concerned) on July 30th, a 5th Sun. Address is (3).

* RADIO CONFUSION from the UK made a special Bank Holiday trm on Mon May 7th on 6290. Mon May 28th another Bank Holiday broadcast was intended but as far as we know nothing took place that date. Confusion seems to be infected with the 'higher frequency virus' meaning the station plans to broadcast on 15 MHz with quite some power (around 80 watts). If you are an early bird, then give it a try around 03.00/04.00 UTC. Address: 32 Victoria Road etc. (BRI)

* THE NORTHERN IRELAND SW RELAY SEVICE returned on SW in May with trms being noticed on their 'old' frequency of 6273 kHz. Reception on the continent is almost non-existent thus implying power must be low or the adjustment between tx and aerial is very inefficient. They claim to be using a few hundred watts which really is strange since even in the UK their signal is not excellent or good. May 20th & 27th the NISWRS was on. Address is 105 Bushmills Rd, Coleraine, Londonderry BT52 2BS in N-Ireland.

* RADIO TINA carried out 3 trms in May: Sun 6th, Mon 7th & 28th. The station pops up on 6210 but due to the fact an indoor antenna is being used, strength is rather low; on the continent the station is (almost) inaudible. Power is in the 10-30W region and the same address as Radio Pamela is used: 131 Napier Rd, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4HH in the UK.

* QUALITY RADIO was active May 20th & June 10th, both times on 9985 in the 31mb. A few weeks ago Radio Netherlands' 'Media Network' carried a little item about Q-AM mentioning that the two hour blocks are repeated during afternoon and early evening hours on 15055 and 21850 kHz. On both occasions. May 20th & June 10th nothing was heard on 21850 & 15055 however. Signal-strength was clearly less powerful in compare with previous trms. Once again: this is a result of power reduction, perhaps in combination with a different propagation pattern. Pxs remain of a high standard. Address is P.O.B. 85455, 2508 CD De Hague, Holland.

* RADIO GLORIA INT. from Scotland continues with a very irregular schedule. It seems to be more a kind of QSO-station rather than a serious music station. Sun May 27th a weak signal was logged on 6293 in the UK. Address is 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, EH12 5YR in Scotland.

* RADIO MARABU from W-Germany transmitted a special long distance test Sun June 10th between 00.00-01.00 UTC on 15710 (close to the channel WFRL plans to use!). At this stage we don't know whether the test was successful; we hope to hear something from the Marabu people and will report this in the upcoming edition. Sun May 13th Marabu was on 7484 with the usual alternative mx format, presented in German. Perhaps it was a relay via PFBS since the latter station also uses 7484 kHz. Address: (2).

* Not included on our logging lists: two 'Dutchies', RADIO TORENVALK & RADIO TONAIR tested May 6th very late in the afternoon (16.00 UTC!) on 6205. As always a powerful signal was to be heard; remains the question what the use is of all these tests...

Address: P.O.Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam (T) & P.O.B. 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen (Tonair).

* The VOICE OF EUROPE hasn't been heard for a while, at least the station was missing a few Sundays. The station used 7535 but it's not known whether this frq has been left. Power is approx. 1 kW resulting in a good reception in W-Europe, especially in the early part of the morning.

* RADIO NORDLIGHT INT. sent us some info last month which was duly published. In the mean time a few broadcasts were carried out in the 48 mb. May 6th, 19th & 20th as well as June 3rd RNI was heard on 6205 & 6240 kHz. Reception in the uk is rather poor but on the continent fair/good signal-strength is being noted. Expect the station also on 15 MHz in the not too distant future. The mailing address is: (4).

RADIO NORTHLIGHT INTERNATIONAL
Your Music-Station for Europe on 41- and 48-Metres Shortwave
RNL-INTERNATIONAL
Dance Soul Funk Oldies
Fight for Free Radio

RADIO NORTHLIGHT INTERNATIONAL
P.O.BOX 12074, 3502 LEUW, Utrecht, NETHERLANDS
THE VOICE OF FREE RADIO, LISTEN TO OUR SHORTWAVE-FREQUENCIES
6205, 6240, 6315, 7310/5, 15043 KC

S.W. news

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* SUD-WEST RADIO returned on SW Sun May 13th. A new 100W transmitter was being tested out. In W-Germany and parts of the Benelux a strong signal was noticed; in the UK and other areas signal-strength was disappointing knowing 100W was the transmitting power. A few shows were aired and a kind of new px formula was tried out. The station asked for listeners' response in connection with the new shows and the use of a new tx. The address remains P.O.B. 1243, 6685 Schiffweiler in W-Germany.

* SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO is the new name for 4IFR. The new call-sign for this New Zealand station was first used Sun May 6th when a relay took place on 7440 kHz via Radio Waves Int. SMR plays a lot of alternative stuff including artists from New Zealand. Address is Box 130, 92504 Rueil-Malmaison, Cedex in France.

* The ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE sent us a personal letter plus the latest px schedule of the station. Station-manager told us no more time will be made available at the hobby and special interest rate of \$ 65,- per hour (effective March 4th). The only broadcaster who took advantage of that rate was Dario Monferrini with his Play DX-News. The response of so-called hobby pirates during the initial test-period late 1988/early 1989 was impressive but that's not a miracle knowing these relays were free. When real programming commenced (and thus people had to pay) the interest decreased to a minimum as far as the hobby stations are concerned. Alfredo E. Cotroneo, station-manager of the IRRS, has the opinion that most of the hobby pirates are running their stations just for the fun of running it and/or for the fun of breaking the law in their own countries. Having their programmes on a legal station would not probably be as much rewarding as airing them by themselves. Risking fines (or even jail) is an important part of the hobby. Asking whether it would be interesting to set up a kind of special relay-tx, only for the weekend hobby-stations Alfredo answers that working for a rate of US\$ 10-20 can't be profitable because that doesn't even cover the costs of running a 1 kW tx. Nearly 50% of the IRRS revenues go into taxes (VAT and income tax). In the mean time some changes should have been taking place. The IRRS used to broadcast on Sundays only between 07.00 and 13.00 CET on 9815 & 9860 kHz. Among the station's clients organisations like the United Nations and UNESCO. However: in his letter to FRSR Mr. Cotroneo reveals that daily trms will be commenced sometime in June. Unfortunately we haven't received the latest changes yet but it seems the IRRS is turning into a new episode; the station is treated as a professional broadcaster and several religious organisations have concluded contracts for relays over the IRRS 10 kW tx. The rates are relatively and the coverage area is large; the IRRS tx is running an A3A modulation (AM reduced carrier, Upper Side Band only, fully AM compatible) providing the same communication power of a 30 kW AM transmitter.

IRRS- ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE
P.O.Box 10980, I-20110 Milano, Italy
Phone +39-2-2666971 ** Fax +39-2-710229

S.W. news



NEWS FROM AROUND THE



* WHSTV has signed a contract with Satellite Radio Services to lease a subcarrier on the Astra transponder 5. SRS will deliver two services: CLUB MUSIC will be broadcasting music specially aimed at discotheques and nightclubs. The new station will be on air 7 days a week; daily on air times will be between 19.00- 03.00. The signal will be encoded. A separate contract was concluded with a company called XTravision Ltd. for the use of a code-system (called Exidy Sound Dominator). Within a brief period a second musicservice will be starting daily trms during the hours Club Music is off air. The name of this second service is PIRATE RADIO. This station will be re-broadcasting pxs of the 'hottest American radiostations'. Unconfirmed rumours are circulating saying Chris Carey is involved in the latter station.

* Regularly we receive info about the WHEREABOUTS of well-known radiopersonalities. Lex Harding used to be programme-director of Veronica's radiodivision before he became managing-director of the new satellite-delivered commercial TV-station RTL-Veronique, based in Luxembourg. But because of internal disagreements Harding resigned. He went to the Caribbean to consult a radiostation. Now he's back on Veronica as....programme-director. Lex Harding presented the famous and popular Veronica Top 40 for more than 20 years before switching to RTL-Veronique. It's not known whether he'll be doing a show on Radio veronica. We cross the Atlantic and end up in Washington where you can find on your dial a station called WJFK. A rockstation with the voice of Jessie Brandon (with that special laugh..). Nice to know she's still involved in a thing called.... RADIO!

* It looks like the offshore stations are discovered in the Caribbean. No, there aren't any stations starting from that part of the world! Some of the isles have strong bonds with Holland. One of these isles is Curacao. Last year (November) a new radioservice called Radio Paradise started transmissions. And now yet another new station under the name Laser 101 will commence trms. Format: contemporary hit radio.

* Remember our special feature about Radio 10 in issue 93/94? In the mean time it has been announced that Radio 10 has been bought by ARCADE, a well-known recordcompany specialized in collection albums. Radio 10 will be renamed into Radio 10 Gold and this will happen within some 4 months. Fact is the financial position of the station wasn't very promising; programme-director Ferry Maat left the station and is now back on TROS Radio where he has become programme-director as from June 1st onwards. Ferry started his career on Radio Northsea Int. and went to the TROS after August 1974 when the Dutch offshore stations were forced to cease broadcasting. Some two years ago he left TROS and joined Radio 10. One of Ferry's well-known and very popular shows on TROS was the 'Soulshow'. Luc van Rooy was offered the job to replace Maat as programme-director on Radio 10. He refused and also left Radio 10. Now he's on the Dutch broadcasting society AVRO where he's doing the breakfast shift every Mon morning 6-9 AM CET (Radio 3). Luc joined Radio 10 only a few months ago after leaving yet another Dutch broadcasting society called the VARA. Before he was working for the VARA, he was on Radio Monique 963 under the name Luc Dardin. According to our friend Herbie the Fish more Radio 10 people will leave the station. It seems Herbie himself is involved in a new project. No details available currently. Perhaps next time !!!



veronica

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It was not too long ago- April 18th- that Veronica celebrated 30 years of (free) broadcasting. Veronica started as Radio Veronica in 1960, being the first W-European offshore station following the example of Radio Nord, Sud and Mercur in Scandinavia. April 1960 trms were commenced and in those days there only were two radiostations in Holland: Hilversum 1 and 2. Most listeners were forced to listen to the medium wave; FM was new. The start of Veronica created a shock in the radio-establishment at that time. First it was thought the Veronica dventure would only last for a short while. But the opposite happened: Veronica got a number of advertisers which was very important for the survival of the station. The commercial sucesse made the station bigger and more important. People working for the official Dutch broadcasting societies weren't allowed to work on Veronica. In the early days the station sounded rather amateurish but things improved within a few years. Joost den Draaier introduced the Veronica Top 40 and a horizontal programme format was introduced, for the listener recognizable. Also station jingles were introduced (in whose days=1964, Joost den Draaier was allowed to go to the US to have a look in the kitchen of US radio; he returned with a handful of ideas). The enormous success of Radio Veronica on 192m gave the existing Dutch broadcasting societies cause to found a new popradiostation under the name Hilversum 3 (nowadays Radio 3). That was the first time it became clear the oldfashioned Dutch radio-establishment would only change under external pressure. In the 70's Veronica continued its success formula till August 1974 when an anti-offshore law made an end on Veronica, Northsea & Atlantis. But the unbelievable thing happened: Veronica came on land and became a legal broadcasting society. Step by step the Veronica organisation became bigger and bigger and nowadays Veronica is Holland's largest broadcasting society. Veronica's influence on the radio continued also after the offshore adventure. For instance 'Veronica Newsradio' was introduced: non-stop news every half an hour. Veronica showed people what the possibilities are of a satellite radiostation. During the 1986 Firato in Amsterdam Europe Radio was introduced as an experiment. During the 1988 Firato Veronica introduced 'Veronica Local': special pxs which could be broadcasted by the various Dutch local radio stations during the hours the stations weren't on air with their own programming. Also for the upcoming Firato Veronica will introduce something special (and new?). Plans haven't been announced yet.

As a broadcasting society Veronica can be heard on several days on the Dutch radio stations 1, 2, 3 & 4. Wednesday April 18th Veronica was to be heard on Radio 1 between 07.00- 17.00 H. The usual pxs were replaced by one programme commemorating Veronica's 30th birthday. It was completely filled with memories: music from the past, programme extracts from the 'good old' days and interviews with former offshore presenters which used to work on Veronica before 1974. Programming was coming from a ship off the Scheveningen coast. Just like the old days when the Norderney was anchored off the Dutch coast outside the 3 mile limit. It's a pity the Veronica organisation didn't succeed in leasing the original radiovessel Norderney, still lying in Holland being in a very good shape. The signal from the studio on the ship was transmitted to an airplane, receiving the signal and transmitting it on its turn to a transmitter on land. Although the airplane had to go to a nearby airport for refuelling, trms could continue. During the pe-

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This 'promo' was to be read in the Veronica magazine about the special Birthday trms from sea April 18th 1990.

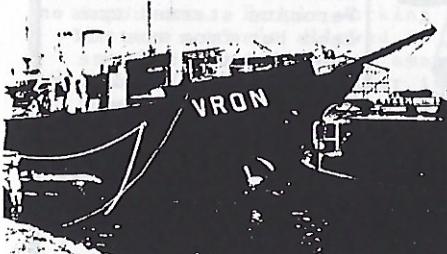
VERONICA GAAT TERUG NAAR ZEE

Haag who also worked in Spain for Radio Mi Amigo. He didn't make it too long on the ship this time: poor Stan got seasick. One of the most interesting interviews was the one with former Veronica 'chief' Bull Verwey. He is now 80 and has the spirit of somebody who's 60! He talked about the bombattack on RNI in 1971 and his imprisonment following the incident. Between 15- 17 a concert was organised featuring well-known popgroups from 60's & 70's. Among the groups also the Fortunes playing a special Veronica version of their 'Caroline' song. On the Dutch TV (Veronica has airtime on Wed & Sat) a special documentary was broadcasted covering Veronica's days on sea and on land. What most radiofreaks expected didn't happen: old shots being shown already a dozen times. The shots were unknown and most of the material was never shown by Veronica. A lot of the material came from personal 8mm files belonging to (former) station-employees. Indeed a very good inside impression was the result. Producers were Ad(je) Bouman & Bart van Leeuwen, both still working for Veronica. They were already on the station during the offshore period. It would take a complete book to tell the story of Veronica. We prefer to publish just some of the interesting things which are part of Veronica's life.

October 10th 1959 a group of dealers founded the V.R.O.N. with the intention to start making commercial broadcasts from a ship off the Dutch coast. Ofcourse they had the example of the Scandinavian stations and were impressed by the possibilities. Meetings were arranged in the Amsterdam Krasnapolsky hotel. The founders needed money and one of the most fascinating stories is when a shareholders meeting took place in Amsterdam in 1959. The management had the difficult task to convince the shareholders with something which would prove the authenticity of the project. During the meeting a radio was switched on and loud and clear a voice was heard with the words 'Good evening, this is the Free Radio Broadcasting Corporation Holland with a test-transmission from the Northsea'. The rest of the transmission- non-stop music- wasn't heard anymore by the future shareholders: they were too enthusiast about what they'd heard. The management was 'snowed under' with congratulations.

What the poor shareholders didn't know was the fact the management had installed a tiny low-powered medium wave tx some 500 metres apart from the hotel where the

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On top: the first ship called Borkum Riff when Veronica was called V.R.O.N.

Below: confiscation of medium wave tx in 1959 in Amsterdam.



Die' !! Because of the growing success English language trms were started up under the name CNBC between 08.00- 13.00 Hours. Some of the names on the Commercial Neutral Broadcasting were Paul Hollingdale and Doug Stanley.

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meeting was held ! Even the fact the tx was confiscated that same evening couldn't temper the enthusiasm of the shareholders: they were simply impressed by the possibilities of a free broadcasting station. A ship had to be bought and that was the Borkum Riff, a German lightship which was built in 1911 (!!) and which had to be repaired. The ship was bought for DM 69,000. Programmes were pre-recorded in a very simple, amateurish studio in Hilversum. The very first trm took place April 21 1960. Female presenter Ellen van Eck spoke the first words. Only a few days before the first trm, the management decided to change the name V.R.O.N. in Veronica. Because already a number of tapes were recorded for the first week of trms- and there was no time to do it over- one of the engineers had the almost impossible task to listen to all pre-recorded tapes erasing the word V.R.O.N. and replacing it by the stationcall 'Veronica' whenever it was possible. A real popformat was introduced in 1965 when the Veronica Top 40 came on the station. From the beginning onwards Veronica was very popular among the Dutch audience. A NIPO survey in 1960 (Nov. of that year) put the audience at 5,000,000 !! Although the transmitting power in those early years was nothing more than 1 kW. Testbroadcasts were carried out on 185m, 182m/1640 kHz and the fixed 192m/1562 kHz frequency was introduced May 15th 1960. Veronica left 182m after complaints of interference with a ship-to-shore station. Veronica's move to 192m was a good one: reception improved a lot although the power remained the same. Strange was that the potential advertisers weren't interested although the station's listening figures were very impressive and stimulating. It was at the end of Nov. 1960 when 3 shareholders - Dirk, Jaap & Bull Verweij - took over the running of the station. A small fishing boat, Ger Anna, was purchased for use as a tender. It was a commercial for Nur Die nylons which was the start of Veronica's giant success as a commercial station. The increase in sales of this product rose from almost nothing to a few millions in a couple of month. Everybody in Holland knew 'Nur

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By 1962 Veronica's income was approaching f 1,000,000 !!

Following the action from the Scandinavian governments against the offshore stations, the Dutch government started to investigate how Veronica could be silenced. The popularity only increased and in actual fact nothing happened which really damaged the station. In the course of 1965, when horizontal programming was introduced with a more poppy format, the first live trms were to be heard from the Borkum Riff. 1966 saw the introduction of a new ship, the Norderney, a larger former trawler which was a vast improvement. A new 10 kW tx was installed on the new home of Radio Veronica. At nighttime only 2 kW was used to avoid interferences with foreign services. The aerial-system was also improved thus resulting in more efficiency. A Swiss station, also using 1-9-2 upped power, and Veronica's signal was badly affected, especially during evening and night. Already in the late 60's- Oct. 1968- secret tests were carried out on 557 kHz. However: it would take a few years before the definitive decision to change frequency was being taken. The 1960's went by and in May 1970 a 24 hour service was introduced as far as the Fri, Sat & Sun were concerned. Veronica had

not only built up a large and loyal audience, the station also was sympathetic in the eyes of millions of people because a few times large amounts of money were given to charities. In 1971 the action 'Veronica blijft als U dat wilt' was launched (Veronica stays if you wish). More than 2,000,000 postcards were received pledging support. May 15th 1971 people in Holland were shocked to hear about a bomb attack on Veronica's rival, RNI. The Veronica management had payed a lot of money to the owners of RNI, Meister and Bollier, two Swiss businessmen. They got the money but didn't observe the contract. Bull Verweij hired three people who had the task to get the Mebo II, the RNI ship

oo
veronica



DIT IS DE EERSTE RADIO VERONICA TOP januari 1965

Dese eerste Nederlandse hitparade weder nooit gedrukt.

1. I FEEL FINE	11. LITTLE RED ROOSTER
Beatles	Rolling Stones
2. THE FRENCH SONG	22. VERGANGEN, VERGESSEN
Lucille Starr	Freddy
3. PRETTY WOMAN	23. WHERE DID OUR LOVE GO
Roy Orbison	Beatles
4. DOLCE PAGLA	24. TRAUME DER LIEBE
Adama	Geschiester Jacob
5. HARLEMINO	25. KENN EIN LAND/KLEINE ANNABELLE
Irene Marina	Ronny
6. MEIN DAGBOEK	26. IF I TELL
Willeke Alberti	Beatles
7. IN DER MONDSCHALEN NACHT	27. DOWN TOWN
Gert & Hermien Timmerman	Paula Clark
8. I COULD EASILY FALL IN LOVE	28. EVERYTHING'S ALLRIGHT
Cliff Richard	Newbeats
9. THE WEDDING	29. JERZEEL
Julie Rodgers	Johnny Kendell & Herald
10. TIME IS ON MY SIDE	30. SCHNEEMANN
Rolling Stones	Manuela
11. THERE'S A HEARTACHE	31. COME SEE ABOUT ME
Jim Reeves	Supremes
12. IN HET GEDIJD WEER OPNEUW AAN JOU	32. IX HEB GEDRAG VAN JOU
Devon - Edwin Ruttan	ZZ & Maskers
13. PRETTY PAPER	33. ADALITA
Roy Orbison	Priscilla Lopes
14. SI J'ETAIS LE FILS D'UN ROI	34. UNA LAGUNA SUL VISA
Marc Aryan	Bobby Solo
15. BABY LOVE	35. BEAMCA ROSA
Supremes	Rene Caroli
16. TELL ME	36. I WON'T FORGET YOU
Rolling Stones	Jim Reeves
17. ALL DAY AND ALL OF THE NIGHT	37. COME A LITTLE BIT CLOSER
Kinks	Jay & Americans
18. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING THERE TO SEE	38. REMIND ME - Sandie Shaw
Manfred Mann	SHA LA LA
19. HUP HUP HUP	39. MARIA ELENA
Coctail Trio	Los Indios Tabajares
20. RINGO	40. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER
Lorna Green	Beatles

The very first Veronica Top 40 was broadcasted in Jan. 1965. Joost den Draaier was responsible for the introduction of this chart on the station. The first edition was never printed ! The Beatles had the honour of being the first no. 1 !!

within the Dutch territorial waters. Without violence was the agreement. The 3 men didn't keep their promise and used a bomb. That same evening they were arrested and Bull Verweij took responsibility for what happened.

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'Uncle' Bull as he was always called by the Veronica people had to go to prison for 12 months !! Fact is this dramatic influence made the Dutch authorities aware of the fact the offshore stations off the Dutch coast had to disappear as soon as possible. The whole process of introducing an anti-pirate law was quickened! Sept. 1971 Veronica introduced a magazine called Veronica 192. Early 1972 A very special broadcast was made: B-Day on 192. 20 hours of non-stop Beatles music was aired on Veronica to commemorate it was 10 years ago that The Beatles had their first (little) success with 'Love me do'. Sat Sept. 30th 1972 was a historic day: a change of frequency. Already in 1968 the Swiss station Bero-münster increased power from 0.5 to 160 kW. The station was intending to increase power to no less than 300 kW and that made it quite easy for Veronica to switch to the other side of the dial. Engineers aboard the Norderney- under leadership of chief engineer José van Groningen- worked day and night to prepare the move. Most people do not realize that a change from 192m/1562 kHz to 538m/557 kHz means the whole aerial-system must undergo a total adjustment. Of course several tests were already carried out during nighttime in preparation for the final frequency move. So it happened that at 02.00 CET, when regular programming was ceased, a few dedicated engineers had to climb the aerial masts to install aerial-wires suitable for trms on 538m, while the original antenna was taken downwards. A tough job on the high seas during the darkness of the night.. And early in the morning, before the pxs of a new day had to be commenced (at 06.00 CET!) the 5-wire 538m aerial was taken downwards while the 2-wire 192m antenna had to be installed. Everywhere in Holland monitoring was carried out to know how reception was on 538. It soon appeared it would be a perfect choice. Sept. 30th at 1300 CET- half an hour after leaving 192m- the voice of Lex Harding welcomed millions of Veronica listeners with the words 'Welcome on 538'. A brand-new jingle-package was introduced. One of the radio's in the Veronica studio was tuned to 192m and suddenly RNI jingles were heard. RNI had put its spare tx (10 kW) on 192m under the name RNI II !! A very special happening !!!

veronica blij
(als u dat wilt)



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At the end of 1973 very bad weather made it impossible to supply the ship with px tapes. The newsreaders on board the ship were forced to present live shows. The night of April 2nd/3rd a gale blew all day and increased until it reached hurricane force. At 08.54 PM Radio Scheveningen received a message from the crew on the Norderney telling the ship was broken loose from her moorings and she was drifting towards the shore. The life boat Bernard van Leer put to sea but the weather was too rough. With no engine the ship was at the mercy of the waves and by 11.30 PM she ran aground some 50 yards from the entrance of Scheveningen harbour. Trms were already ceased at 10.28 PM when engineer Ruud Doets informed the listeners what was going on. Then the tx was switched off and the X-tal was thrown in the Northsea. The ship wasn't a broadcasting vessel anymore without a X-tal. Already two men were taken aboard the Bernard van Leer, 6 other crewmembers stayed on the Norderney. They were saved not too long ago before the Norderney ended up on the beach. The life-boat Bernard van Leer was damaged and no less than f 70,000 were needed to repair the ship. Veronica payed the damage. Several attempts were undertaken to free the Norderney. It was very important for Veronica to continue broadcasts as soon as possible because April 18th there would be a hearing in De Hague about the future of the offshore stations. Veronica wanted to show the political parties - specially the Dutch Lower House- that she had the right to exist and to continue. The station organised a protest meeting but how could a protest meeting be successful when it wasn't possible to mobilise the Veronica supporters via their own station? Ronan O'Rahilly offered help and at 09.00 AM April 11th 1973 tests commenced on 1187 kHz/253m. Regular pxs of Veronica via the Mi Amigo commenced at noon. Reception was fair with a 10 kW tx and a makeshift aerial April 18th at 04.00 AM the Norderney was refloated and one hour later she was back at anchor. Immediately tests were commenced and by 10.00 AM regular programming recommenced. Until 06.00 AM on April 20th the MI Amigo relayed the Veronica pxs on 253m. The protest meeting was a giant success with more than 100,000 Veronica supporters! But even this was not enough to convince the people of the Dutch Lower House in De Hague. Preparations were being made and it was August 31st at 18.00 CET when 538m went silent. For more than 15 years Veronica had been broadcasting from the high seas. The end of an adventure but not the end of Veronica. The last words were spoken by Rob Out- programme director- followed by the Dutch National Anthem. Then a Veronica jingle and....silence.

Next issue we will pay attention to what happened with the Veronica vessel Norderney, currently lying in the very southern part of Holland, in Maastricht, capital of the province of Limburg.

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Back in Auckland mood was far below zero. The continuity of the station was very important, because a big debt was still remaining, despite the many commercials. Maybe the creditors would make an end to the station. Moreover there was threat from the Post Office that a law against the very popular pirate would be introduced, now the station wasn't broadcasting and so couldn't influence the public. Gapes always had hoped that with the voice of Hauraki private commercial radio would become reality in New Zealand. Ofcourse Hauraki would be the first to ask for a licence. As long as the station was broadcasting there would be pressure to get this process running. However politicians weren't ready for this yet. And a silent Hauraki would even make it worse.

There was only one thing left to do: as soon as possible back in the air. But: how?

There weren't that much cheap ships for sale. The solution came from an old "amigo", Jim Frankham, the former owner of the TIRI. The other day Jim had decided the MV Kapuni was no longer profitable for commercial purposes. The Kapuni was 40 meters long and equipped with a shower! However the ship was older than the TIRI, built in 1900.

On board were two Diesel engines, a comfortable thought in heavy seas. The price of the ship was somewhat too high, \$ 10,000. However Frankham decided this amount of money could be payed in some years to come.

Soon work on the Kapuni began. In the meantime the ship was renamed TIRI 2. Also the outside of the ship was painted yellow.

There is a unwritten law in the world of offshoreradio, that a ship's mast cannot be longer as the total length of the ship. Hauraki denied this: the ship was 40 meters long, the height of the mast: 65 meters! The skipper, Griffiths, got pale when he saw this construction. Because of this mast it had become impossible to sail into Great Barrier harbour, but the advantage was the improved signal ofcourse.

In the meantime O'Callahan filled his days with cleaning the transmitter, hundreds of tapes and generator, coming from the TIRI 1. In the hold of the TIRI 2 new studios were built and also a seperated transmitter and generatorroom. Also a lot was done to improve the cabins of the crew compared to the TIRI 1 and a good working airconditioning system was installed. The old mast of the TIRI 1 was tightened up to the deck ("you never know") and on February 27 1968 the ship left Auckland with Lloyd Griffiths on the bridge.

March 27 1968 the anchorchain of the TIRI 2 broke in heavy seas and the ship was listing quite severe. Griffiths tried to get the ship into Great Barrier harbour, but the weight of the ship was that large that the ship couldn't be handled. In the meantime Gibbs had come to the TIRI again and 600 meters from the beach he

succeeded in towing up to the ship. However the rope broke and the TIRI drifted away. A lot of water was streaming into the TIRI 2, cabins, messroom and the galley made water. The ship was only able to sail to Auckland. That same night they sailed into Auckland harbour and Gapes began to wonder how long his crew could take such risks.

O'Callahan didn't want to go back to sea and retired, though he was willing to help if needed. April 8 the TIRI was back at it's anchorage and resumed it's transmissions until the day after. Then a severe gale was blowing and the TIRI again sheltered at Great Barrier. But even in the harbour they weren't save. The mast broke. That morning at 5 o'clock the TIRI was laying on the beach. That same night the ferry Wahine had sunk, leaving 60 people dead...

The tug Otopiri towed the TIRI back to Great Barrier. There the remaining part of the mast was removed and a new mast erected. In the meantime Gapes had decided the TIRI 2 would sail to Wellington, broadcasting! The ship should moore before the houses of Parliament. However Gapes was forced by his friends to forget this plan.

April 15 1968 Hauraki was back in the air, but April 20 they were back at Great Barrier because of a severe gale. This resulted in loss of advertising revenues ofcourse. Still there was no hope for a licence to broadcast from land. Besides some little incidents they broadcasted non stop until June 13 1968. That day an unpredicted gale forced the TIRI 2 to sail to it's wellknown shelter, while in the studio deejay Ian Ferguson made a live broadcast and reported about the events. In the background the noise of the engine and the sound of tape decks, recordplayers and things like that, falling out of the racks could be heard. Again the ship was out of control.

In the early morning of June 14 '68 the TIRI ran aground on Uretiti beach. Nobody was hurt and no clear damage at the ship. However, because of all the incidents the public began to wonder what Gapes was doing. In another sense there had been damage! The sympathy of the people of New Zealand for the project was diminishing!

Lloyd Griffiths admitted it had become a very hazardous affair on the TIRI 2, the ship had lost it's seaworthiness and the pumps were running all day and night.

Next month: the final part of the Radio Hauraki Story...

A few hot items which reached us only one day before going to the printer:

* Spectrum Radio is broadcasting on two channels currently: 558 & 990 kHz. The latter frequency is only temporarily in use. A court-case against the IBA has been started by the owners of the station.

Within some 3 weeks the well-known Hunstanton address will be closed. It seems the owner won't take any risk and he had already planned to cease activities because of the upcoming new broadcasting bill. Many stations have to find a new addr.